

**Gordon, Debbie**

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**From:** sjokeeffe@gmail.com on behalf of Stephanie O'Keeffe [stephanie@okeeffe.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 06, 2011 3:33 PM  
**To:** Lass, Libby; Gordon, Debbie  
**Subject:** Fwd: Shade Tree Membership

For the packets... thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Hope Crolius <hopecrolius@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Dec 9, 2010 at 2:24 PM  
**Subject:** Shade Tree Membership  
**To:** selectboard@amherstma.gov  
**Cc:** "Lass, Libby" <LassL@amherstma.gov>, "Snow, Alan" <Alan.Snow@state.ma.us>

Dear Stephanie,

May I request another appearance by the Shade Tree Committee before the Selectboard as soon as possible? The ConComm voted unanimously last night (12/8) to expand the membership of the APSTC from five to seven members. The next step, we are told, is to change the language in the APSTC charge to reflect this change, and to present this to the SB for approval.

We went through this process a year ago, but I believe I dropped the ball and did not bring the matter to the SB, so our membership has remained at five -- so here's to rectifying the situation and hoping we can appear before you at a time convenient to you. (We have a sixth, prospective member who has THOUGHT he was 'in' for some months now, and we are eager to make him official, so of course earlier is better..>)

Many thanks -

Hope  
Chair, APSTC

--

Hope Crolius  
Artemis Garden Consultants: In the Service of Beauty  
413-461-6832

"The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies." - Gertrude Jekyll

## Gordon, Debbie

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**From:** Alisa Brewer [avbrewer@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 06, 2011 6:06 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Debbie; Lass, Libby  
**Cc:** Briony Angus; Ziomek, David; Musante, John; Hope Crolius; Conservation Department Email  
**Subject:** Re: Clipping Service: Public Shade Tree Committee Membership  
**Attachments:** Charge Book Public Shade Tree Committee 20081120.pdf; ATT00001..txt

Hi Deb & Libby!

I am sorry to ask for this at the last minute:-)

Please include 1) this email with the following list of documents in the Select Board Agenda packet (online and hardcopy) for Monday January 10, 2011, along with:

2) the attached six pages scanned from the Committee/Board "Charge" book re: Public Shade Tree Committee (if that wasn't already in the packet from Hope) (and if you have any other Charge info on the Public Shade Tree Committee since Judith made this scan 11-20-08, please add that, also), and

3) a print of this page from the Town website re: Shade Tree Act/MGL Ch.87 (Tree Warden) & Scenic Roads Act/MGL Ch.40, Section 15C (Planning Board):  
<http://amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=1253>, and

4) a print of this page from the Town website re: Public Works & Shade Trees: <http://amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=832>

If this is not feasible for the mailed packet, then having it all prepared for our desks Monday evening would also be OK. I know sometimes push comes to shove:-)

Thank you so much!

Take care,  
Alisa

p.s. the irony of "killing trees" with this many copies does not escape me:-)

> Resent-From: <selectboard@amherstma.gov>  
> From: Alisa Brewer <avbrewer@comcast.net>  
> Date: January 6, 2011 5:59:32 PM EST  
> To: Select Board <selectboard@amherstma.gov>  
> Cc: "Debbie Gordon (TOWN)" <GordonD@amherstma.gov>, "Libby Lass  
> (TOWN)" <lassl@amherstma.gov>  
> Subject: Clipping Service: Public Shade Tree Committee Membership  
>  
> Published on GazetteNET (<http://www.gazettenet.com>) Source URL:  
> [http://www.gazettenet.com/2011/01/05/amherst-tree-committee-seek-more-](http://www.gazettenet.com/2011/01/05/amherst-tree-committee-seek-more-members)  
> members  
>  
> Amherst tree committee to seek more members By smerzbach Created  
> 01/05/2011 - 5:00am  
>  
> AMHERST - Seeking a more active role in how trees are managed on  
> public ways and in municipal parks, the Public Shade Tree Committee is  
> requesting that its membership be enlarged.

> Hope Crolius, chairwoman of the committee, said she will go before the  
 > Select Board Monday to make the appeal for an increase from five to  
 > seven members, because of the variety of projects on the committee's  
 > agenda, including counting shade trees, putting them in the town's  
 > computer mapping database and advocating for more plantings.

>  
 > "That means we'll have more bodies with a more diverse skill set,"  
 > Crolius said.

>  
 > She already has people in mind to fill the two new seats, should the  
 > Select Board approve the request. One is Henry Lappen, who Crolius  
 > said has knowledge about community organizing and can recruit people  
 > to be Amherst Neighborhood Tree Stewards. These tree stewards are  
 > needed to tend to the many public trees throughout town.

>  
 > The second addition to the committee would be someone with a more  
 > technical understanding to help build the committee's website and to  
 > get more of the shade trees included in the GIS mapping system, she  
 > said.

>  
 > Crolius said it is also imperative that her committee focus on seeing  
 > that more trees are planted and on protecting those already in the  
 > ground. The town is losing too many trees, she said, and the committee  
 > may soon have to replace the Department of Public Works'  
 > tree crew, which continues to be reduced in the municipal budget.

>  
 > "We're working on the idea that there is no tree crew, which is why  
 > it's more important to have more active members," Crolius said.

>  
 > The committee's objective this year is to get 25 new trees planted,  
 > offsetting some of the expected loss of more than 100 trees.

>  
 > Meanwhile, the Shade Tree Committee is continuing to be an advocate  
 > for preservation of trees when road projects are in the design phase.

>  
 > Crolius said the latest concerns center on the section of Meadow  
 > Street between North Pleasant Street and the Route 116 bypass, which  
 > is expected to be rebuilt this spring as part of a series of roads  
 > that will be completed under \$4.5 million road bond approved by Town  
 > Meeting last fall.

>  
 > Department of Public Works Superintendent Guilford Mooring said the  
 > designs, which are nearing completion, call for the existing pothole-  
 > marred surface to be ground to its base. The street will then be  
 > widened to accommodate bicycle lanes on the shoulder and two PVTA bus  
 > pull-offs on both sides of the street near Townehouse Apartments.

>  
 > The road, which is in poor condition, is heavily used by commuters to  
 > access North Amherst and the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a  
 > number of people rent units both in homes along the street and at  
 > Townehouse Apartments. Mooring said some trees will likely have to be  
 > cut down to make way for the road improvements.

>  
 > Crolius said she hopes her committee will draft a reconstruction plan  
 > that incorporates trees. She would like to get support from landlords  
 > and property owners on the street before the road project goes out to  
 > bid.

>

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Town of



AMHERST

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3/20/8

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 16, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO: Board of Selectmen, Town Manager

FROM: Nancy B. Eddy

SUBJECT: Public Shade Tree Policy

At our last discussion of the above issue, I agreed to re-write the proposal policy statement. My draft is below. It incorporates the changes agreed upon by the Board, an initial "goals" statement, but is otherwise simply a re-ordering of sections already approved.

#### 8.200 Public Shade Trees - General Policy

Public shade trees are of considerable value to Amherst as they enhance the aesthetic environment, increase the value of abutting properties, cleanse the atmosphere and provide cool and shady areas. The goal of the Board of Selectmen is to establish and maintain attractively planted streets, parks, and commons.

#### 8.201 Public Shade Trees - Planting

It is Town policy to provide an aesthetically pleasing environment for all town residents who wish to see their neighborhoods beautified by trees.

##### a. Criteria for the Selection of Tree Species.

1. Hardiness of the trees for this area
2. Freedom from possible disease
3. Resistance to damage from fumes, oil, salt, wind and ice
4. A root system which will endure compaction and will not damage underground utilities or heave road and walks
5. Does not have nuisance droppings of bloom or fruit to endanger pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

##### b. Tree Species

###### 1. Large Street Trees

Sycamore maple, ginkgo (male only), unarmed honey locust, red, pin and scarlet oak, green spire Little Leaf Linden and European Linden.

###### 2. Smaller Street Trees

Shadblow, dogwood (flowering and chinese), hawthorn, flowering crab apple and the collery pear.

###### 3. Rural Road Trees

Sugar maple, ash and beech.

###### 4. Park Trees

Sweet gum, tulip, magnolia, amur cork and chinese scholar trees

## 8.202 Public Shade Trees -- Maintenance and Removal

### Maintenance

Trees will die or become weak when diseased, injured or overaged. Weak or dead trees are subject to storm and wind damage, and thus pose a threat to people and property.

The Tree Division of the Public Works Department shall conduct periodic inspections of all public shade trees, perform routine trimming, maintenance and removal of dead or hazardous limbs.

### Removal

The following review procedures shall apply to the removal of Public Shade Trees (all trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereof) except Dutch Elm Diseased Trees and those, that because of their decayed condition, pose a clear and immediate public safety hazard.

a. Removal of trees on designated scenic roads within the Town shall be governed by Chapter 40, Section 15C of the General Laws. Written consent of the Planning Board must be obtained for the removal if the request is for repair, maintenance or reconstruction of a Town way.

b. Removal of any other Public Shade Trees shall be governed by Chapter 87, Sections 3 and 4 of the General Laws.

Notices of a public hearing for the removal of a public shade tree or trees in this category shall be posted at the Town Hall and one or more places in town and upon the tree/or trees at least seven (7) days before each tree hearing. Abutters shall be notified, in writing, at least seven (7) days before each hearing.

*Tree Policy Committee* The Tree Warden shall notify the Director of Conservation Services *and the Public* in writing at least five (5) days in advance of each scheduled public hearing.

The Director of Conservation Services shall submit his recommendations to the Tree Warden, in writing, before a decision is made on the tree removal request.

~~The condition of the tree and its scenic value shall determine whether or not the tree shall be removed.~~

c. The Tree Warden shall not cut down, remove or grant permission for the removal of a public shade tree if an objection to the removal is made in writing by one or more persons at or before the scheduled public hearing.

If any objection is received by the Tree Warden, the Board of Selectmen will act on the tree removal request. This is governed by Chapter 87, Section 4 of the General Laws. The Tree Warden and the Director of Conservation Services will submit their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in writing in all cases requiring a public hearing where an objection is submitted to the Tree Warden.

#### 8.203 Public Shade Trees - Citizen Participation

The Public Shade Tree policy shall be determined by the Public Shade Tree Policy Committee of the Conservation Commission, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen and, for reasons of administrative efficiency, it shall be implemented by the Tree Division of the Public Works Department.

The Chairman of the Conservation Commission shall appoint a five (5) member subcommittee composed of at least one (1) member of the Conservation Commission and four (4) persons chosen for their particular expertise or interest in the planting or maintenance of public shade trees. The Tree Warden shall be an ex officio non-voting member of the subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee shall be appointed to three (3) year terms except that the initial appointments will have staggered terms of office. Reappointment shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Conservation Commission. The subcommittee will elect its own chairman annually.

The subcommittee shall be convened by its chairman periodically for the following purposes, among others:

1. To review periodically the selection of species used for planting (see II).
2. To seek additional sources of funding (in addition to the Town's Budget) for maintaining or expanding the shade tree planting program.
3. To investigate the possibility of establishing and maintaining a Town tree nursery or alternate sources of procuring trees to be planted.
4. To prepare an annual report for the Conservation Commission. The report shall include, but not be limited to the following:
  - a. A report from the Tree Warden of the past year's program, including numbers of trees removed, number of trees planted and an updated tree census. The Tree Warden shall submit the initial tree census during 1978.
  - b. A statement regarding the subcommittee's research on alternate sources of funding and the feasibility of establishing a Town tree nursery.
  - c. Subcommittee recommendations for:
    1. replacement of specific dead or dying trees
    2. the species recommended for such replacements
    3. the planting of additional trees at specific locations and the species recommended
    4. the level of funding necessary to carry out these and any other recommendations.

The annual report shall be submitted prior to October 1 to the Conservation Commission, the Board of Selectmen and to the Town Manager who together with budgetary considerations in view, shall recommend guidelines to be followed by the Tree Warden during each year.

8,204 Public Shade Trees - Relationship with U. Mass. Shade Tree Laboratory

The Tree Division of the Public Works Department and the Tree Warden shall continue to work and seek advice from the U. Mass. Shade Tree Laboratory on all matters relating to tree diseases, maintenance of public shade trees and planting of trees on town ways.



**Lass, Libby**

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**From:** Tucker, Jonathan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2004 10:42 AM  
**To:** Lass, Libby  
**Cc:** 'eschliffer@german.umass.edu'; Westover, Peter; Del Castillo, Barry  
**Subject:** RE: Sept. 7 meeting on trees

Libby:

Asking me about the origins of anything is a dangerous thing to do, but I'll try to restrain myself and start sometime after the glaciers receded. Pete could add a great deal of clarifying detail. I'll just hit the highlights.

Amherst has had a Tree Warden and a DPW Tree Division for a very long time. Their importance (and budget) was increased by the painful and incremental loss of Amherst's many significant elm trees throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s.

The Public Shade Tree Committee was one of many outgrowths of the fevered community planning of the early and mid-1970s responding to community expansion and change spurred by the University's growth. The Conservation Commission was during this time a very active body in the middle of creating numerous categories of land management and environmental policy for Amherst. The Public Shade Tree Committee resulted from several years of public shade tree policy deliberations between the Select Board, Town Manager, Tree Warden, and Conservation Commission (most of whom had some statutory responsibility in the matter) attempting to coordinate and systematize the Town's response to public shade trees. [Sound familiar? Everything old is new again.]

A draft Public Shade Tree Policy was developed in 1976-77; was amended by Conservation Commission and Tree Warden input in late 1977 and early 1978, and was finally adopted by the Select Board in March 20, 1978. The policy contained many things (I'll send up a copy), but included the creation of the Public Shade Tree Committee:

The Public Shade Tree Policy shall be determined by the Public Shade Tree Policy Committee of the Conservation Commission, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen and, for reasons of administrative efficiency, it shall be implemented by the Tree Division of the Public Works Department.

The Chairman of the Conservation Commission shall appoint a five (5) member subcommittee composed of at least one (1) member of the Conservation Commission and four (4) persons chosen for their particular expertise or interest in the planting or maintenance of public shade trees. The Tree Warden shall be an ex officio non-voting member of the subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee shall be appointed to three (3) year terms except that the initial appointments shall be staggered terms of office. Reappointment shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Conservation Commission. The subcommittee shall elect its own chairman annually.

There is a great deal more, including a charge of four (4) general purposes and several sub-tasks for the (sub) committee. Much of the 1978 Policy needs revision (as don't we all, after almost 30 years). As noted, I'll send up a copy.

So, in brief, the answers to Eva's questions are:

1. History - See above.
2. Why Cons. Comm.? - The Conservation Commission was the most active body at the time. It had staff resources, and both statutory and logical (environmental) jurisdiction.
3. Charge? By Whom? - The charge is contained in the above-mentioned policy. It was approved and adopted by the Select Board.

Hope that's helpful (and didn't I restrain myself admirably?).

*Jonathan Tucker*  
Interim Director  
Amherst Planning Dept.  
4 Boltwood Avenue  
Amherst, MA 01002  
(413) 256-4040  
(413) 256-4041 [fax]  
[tuckerj@amherstma.gov](mailto:tuckerj@amherstma.gov)  
[www.amherstma.gov](http://www.amherstma.gov)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lass, Libby  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2004 8:50 AM  
**To:** Tucker, Jonathan  
**Subject:** FW: Sept. 7 meeting on trees

Jonathan,  
Do you know anything of the origins of the Public Shade Tree Committee? I cannot find anything in our files to answer Eva's questions.  
Libby

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Select Board  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2004 8:02 AM  
**To:** Lass, Libby  
**Subject:** FW: Sept. 7 meeting on trees

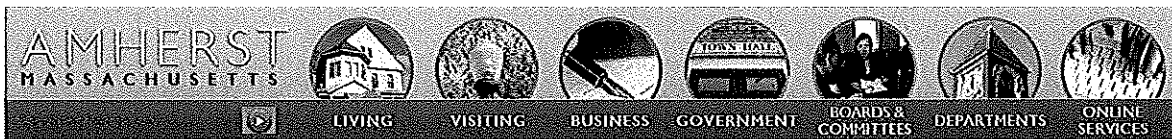
Any insight to Eva's questions?  
- J.

---

**From:** Eva [<mailto:eschlffer@german.umass.edu>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2004 4:31 PM  
**To:** Select Board; Westover, Peter  
**Cc:** Del Castilho, Barry  
**Subject:** Sept. 7 meeting on trees

If anyone has answers to the following questions, they would be really useful to have for/at this meeting:

What is the history of the Shade Tree Committee? How did it come to be appointed by the ConCom? Did the ConCom (rather than Town Meeting or the Sel.Bd.) establish it? What is the charge of the committee, and who issued it?  
Eva



You are here: [Home](#) > [Boards & Committees](#) > [Planning Board](#) > [Scenic Roads](#)

## Scenic Roads

## Contact

**Alan Snow, Tree Warden**  
**Town Hall, 4 Boltwood Avenue**  
**Ph: 413-259-3045**  
**Email**

Christine Brestrup, Staff Liaison to Planning Board  
Town Hall, 4 Boltwood Avenue  
Ph: 413-259-3040  
Email

## Overview

In 1974, Amherst Town Meeting voted to accept the Scenic Road Act, MGL Ch. 40, Sec. 15C. All of Amherst's current scenic roads were designated at this time. See map below.

## The Law & Permitting Process

Two Massachusetts laws—MGL Ch. 87 (Shade Tree Act) and MGL Ch. 40, Sec. 15C (Scenic Roads Act)—create overlapping responsibilities for the Tree Warden and the Planning Board in Amherst.

The Shade Tree Act gives the Tree Warden jurisdiction over the planting or removal of any public shade trees in a public way or, in some circumstances, on public property. In response to a proposal to remove public shade trees, the Tree Warden schedules a public hearing to solicit public input. In Amherst, this usually also involves the Public Shade Tree Committee, a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission whose principal purpose is to advise the Tree Warden. Following the public hearing, the Warden decides whether or not the trees can be removed and, if so, whether conditions will be attached to that removal (planting new trees, for instance).

The Scenic Roads Act, on the other hand, gives Planning Boards jurisdiction over the removal of any public shade trees or existing stone walls in a public way designated as a Scenic Road. The purpose of the Act is to protect the character of historic local roads by preventing the removal of key features—significant public shade trees and historic stone walls. To accomplish this, the Act requires that any proposal to remove public shade trees or stone walls must undergo a Planning Board public hearing to solicit public input, that the Board must then decide whether or not to allow the removal of the features, and, if so, to determine whether any conditions should be attached if removals are allowed.

Whenever there is a proposal to remove public shade trees on a Scenic Road, these two responsibilities overlap, and state law requires that a joint Planning Board/Tree Warden public hearing be held. The Planning Board and the Tree Warden hear public input and then try to reach agreement on how to respond to the request. The public hearing process is the same as with any other permit application, and in some cases, the Tree Warden will be present to also provide information, receive public testimony, and be involved in the deliberations prior to reaching a decision. If a mutually-agreeable decision can be reached, then the matter is concluded. When the Tree Warden, or if a written objection to a removal is filed, trees will go to the Select Board, which has jurisdiction.

[Click here](#) to download the map pictured above.

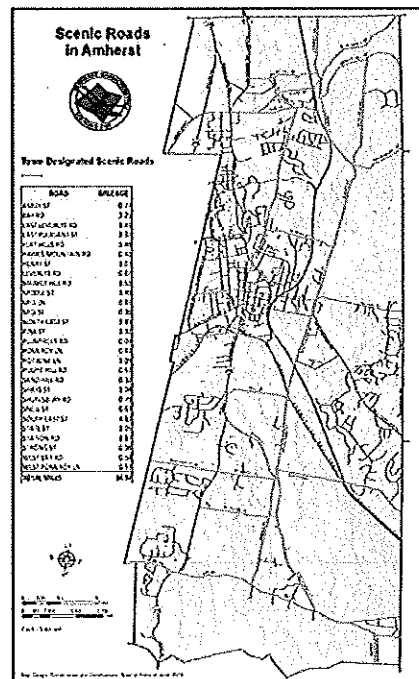
## Maps

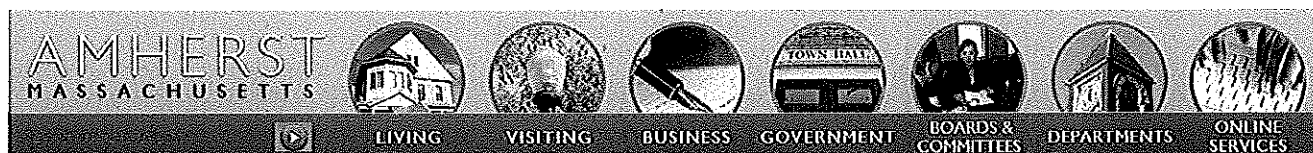
[Download and view the 1974 Town Meeting Vote and Scenic Roads Map](#)

View Amherst's scenic roads with the Town's WebGIS system. When you are viewing the GIS, you can select a street by clicking on the list to the right and viewing its segment, pavement, and history in the tabs below.

## Links

Amherst Tree Warden  
Public Shade Tree Committee  
Department of Public Works-Street Trees





You are here: [Home](#) > [Departments](#) > [Public Works](#) > [Street Trees](#)

## Street Trees



**TREE CITY USA**

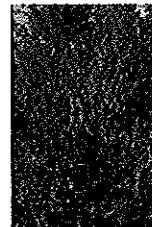
Amherst has been a member of Tree City USA for 21 years. See the link below.

<http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm>



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**Contact**  
Dept. of Public Works  
[Email](#)

586 S. Pleasant St.  
Amherst, MA 01002

413-259-3050  
413-259-2414

**Hours**  
7:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Monday - Friday



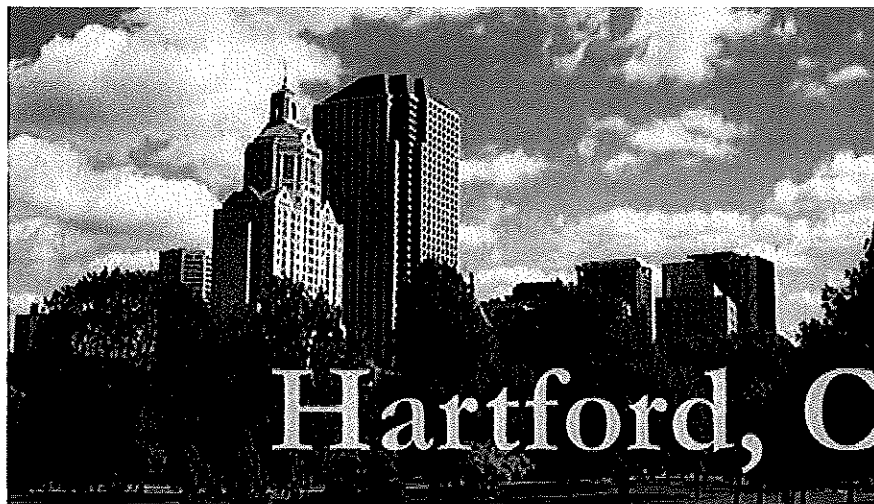
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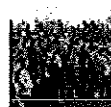
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